MORNING BRIEFING Sunday June 26 1988

Shirtless women hold quiet picnic

Few people even batted an eye yesterday when a group of shirtless women known as the "Topfree 7" held its third annual picnic in Genesee Valley Park.

About 20 women bared their breasts as they played volleyball and munched hamburgers for three hours with about 25 other men and women.

A sheriff's patrol car drove past the picnic shelter, but no one except a park security officer asked the women to don shirts. They refused and were not asked again.

"We're really happy to get that kind of reaction," said Mary Lou Schloss. "That's how people should deal with it — ignore it."

Schloss and six other women made news two summers ago when they were arrested for going topless at Cobbs Hill Park. The group was protesting state laws prohibiting women from baring their breasts in public.

A Rochester City Court judge dismissed the charges but did not strike down the laws.